

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 126813
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 DHA-02
ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /064 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/NE:JJCROWLEY, JR.:CW
APPROVED BY EUR:RDVINE

-----020326Z 030345 /70

R 012333Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL HAMILTON
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 126813

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, BD, UK

SUBJECT: ROWLANDS'VISIT: INDEPENDENCE FOR BERMUDA

1. FCO MINISTER ROWLANDS CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VINE ON MAY 31 TO RAISE GENERAL QUESTION OF INDEPENDENCE FOR BERMUDA AND SPECIFIC TOPIC OF FUT'RE DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ISLAND. ROWLANDS SAID HE DID NOT EXPECT BERMUDA TO BECOME INDEPENDENT ANY TIME SOON, BUT HE THOUGHT THE LONGER-RANGE TREND WAS IN THAT DIRECTION. THIS WAS ESPECIALLY TRUE SINCE THE GOVERNING PARTY, THE UNITED BERMUDA PARTY, HAD DECIDED THAT INDEPENDENCE WAS TOO IMPORTANT AN ISSUE TO LEAVE TO THE OPPOSITION PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY. THE UBP, REPRESENTING THE MORE CONSERVATIVE INTERESTS, THOUGHT THEY HAD BETTER TRY TO MANAGE THE INDEPENDENCE QUESTION SO THAT WHEN IT FINALLY MATERIALIZES IT WILL PROVE AS NON-DISRUPTIVE AS POSSIBLE TO THE CURRENT, HIGHLY PROSPEROUS STATUS QUO.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 126813

2. ROWLANDS EMPHASIZED THAT THE POLICY OF HMG IS TO GRANT INDEPENDENCE TO THOSE COLONIES WHOSE INHABITANTS DESIRE IT, AND THAT WHENEVER A MAJORITY OF BERMUDIANS SO SIGNIFIED, BERMUDA WOULD BE NO EXCEPTION. HE SAID THAT BERMUDA'S PREMIER, JACK SHARPE, HAD RECENTLY

VISITED LONDON TO DISCUSS THE DRAFTING OF A GREEN

PAPER ON BERMUDA INDEPENDENCE. DURING HIS VISIT HE ASKED ROWLANDS TO RAISE THE MATTER OF FUTURE DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS FOR BERMUDA DURING THE LATTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON, AND ROWLANDS WAS DOING SO. HIS OWN VIEW WAS THAT THERE WAS NO PRACTICAL WAY TO FORMALLY ASSOCIATE BERMUDA WITH NATO. AN ARRANGEMENT ALLOWING FOR THE CONTINUED USE OF THE US NAVAL BASE THERE IN RETURN FOR AN IMPLIED OR EXPLICIT DEFENSE GUARANTEE ON THE PART OF THE USG SEEMED TO ROWLANDS THE BEST FORMULA.

3. VINE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO ROWLANDS FOR SHARING HMG'S VIEWS WITH US AT THIS EARLY DATE. HE SAID WE WERE NOT YET IN A POSITION TO RESPOND IN ANY FORMAL WAY, ALTHOUGH IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT THE FUNCTIONS PERFORMED BY THE NAVY BASE CONTINUED TO BE IMPORTANT TO US, AND WE WOULD NEED TO APPRAISE OUR OTHER INTERESTS AS WELL. VINE STATED WE WOULD CONSULT WITH OTHER APPROPRIATE USG AGENCIES BEFORE GETTING BACK TO THE BRITISH WITH A FIRMER POSITION IN ABOUT 90 DAYS. ROWLANDS SAID THAT WOULD BE FINE. THERE WAS NO URGENCY ABOUT THE MATTER AND HE HAD RAISED IT LARGELY TO SATISFY PREMIER SHARPE. HABIB

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, VISITS, DEPENDENCIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE126813
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JJCROWLEY, JR.:CW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770196-0019
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197706100/aaaadjrg.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: abcc0773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1995709
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROWLANDS\VISIT: INDEPENDENCE FOR BERMUDA
TAGS: PGOV, BD, UK, (ROWLANDS, TED)
To: HAMILTON LONDON
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/abcc0773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009